

CAPT. GERSHOM BRADFORD HOUSE



931 Tremont St.

Owned and Maintained by the
DUXBURY RURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The Capt. Gershom Bradford House, built in 1808, is distinguished in having sheltered 4 generations of Bradfords, just the one family, over a period of 160 years! Capt. Gershom's brothers, Daniel and Gamaliel, also captains, and his sister Jerusha (who married Ezra Weston II, "King Caesar"), all built outstanding Duxbury houses at about the same time.

In the late 1700's, seafaring was an obvious career for adventurous young men, so Gershom served before the mast with his elder brothers and became a mate in 1796. In 1799, as mate on ship Mary under his brother, Capt. Gamaliel, they fought a successful action against French privateers. In 1800, following another encounter, he brought the ship Industry safely in to Lisbon after Capt. Gamaliel had been seriously wounded.

The house is not pretentious, but spacious and com-

fortable, typical of a successful shipmaster who enjoyed gracious living when ashore. You will note the attention to fine detail in the woodwork. Original colors have been maintained throughout, even in the painstakingly reproduced wallpaper in the 4 museum rooms. The many pictures and the fine library containing the best works of the day are largely unchanged.

Capt. Gershom commanded at least 10 vessels, retiring in 1826 to lead an active life ashore until his death in 1844. His widow Sarah and her daughters lived in the house for 50 years.

The last owners of the property were Gershom and Edward Bradford, brothers, and great grandsons of Capt. Gershom, the builder. In 1968 they gave the property to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, to be maintained largely "as a sign of respect to their forebears."

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